



Town of Arlington Community Development Block Grant  
Overview of Substantial Amendments  
of Program Year 46  
July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

Town of Arlington Department of Planning and Community Development  
August 6, 2020

## Program Year 46 Substantial Amendments

The Town of Arlington is amending its 2020-2021 Annual Action Plan, covering the period July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, (Program Year 46) to reprogram economic development funds to be responsive to the COVID-19 pandemic and to reprogram 2015 and 2016 funds to support Arlington EATS and the Department of Public Works (DPW) Annual Curb Ramp Project. This Executive Summary provides an explanation of the Substantial Amendment. The full Substantial Amendment can be reviewed at this link: <https://www.arlingtonma.gov/Home/ShowDocument?id=52472>.

The Town of Arlington is also undertaking this Substantial Amendment of the 2020-2021 Annual Action Plan to reprogram \$50,000 that were allocated to Economic Development in order to utilize it for the Arlington Small Business COVID-19 Relief Program and to reprogram \$457,437 of 2015 and 2016 funds in order to support Arlington EATS' Fit Out of their space at 117 Broadway and the DPW Annual Curb Ramp Project.

### Economic Development Funds

The Department of Planning and Community Development planned to implement a workforce training program during Program Year 46, but based on the demand that the Arlington Small Business COVID-19 Relief Program received, this funding would be better utilized to respond to the current environment impacting Arlington's small business community. The economic development funds are discussed in detail below:

| <b>Department of Planning and Community Development</b> | <b>2020-2021 CDBG Program Budget</b> | <b>Substantial Amendment</b> | <b>Final 2020-2021 CDBG Program Budget</b> | <b>Goal Outcomes</b>            |
|---|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Workforce Training Program                              | \$50,000                             | \$0                          | \$0  | 5 New Low/Mod Clients Supported |
| Arlington Small Business COVID-19 Relief Program        | \$0                                  | \$50,000                     | \$50,000                                   | 5 New Low/Mod Clients Supported |
| <b>Totals</b>   | <b>\$50,000</b>                      | <b>\$50,000</b>              | <b>\$50,000</b>                            |                                 |

The Arlington Small Business COVID-19 Relief Program is a new program that was recently deployed by the Arlington Department of Planning and Community Development to support the small business community in this time of economic difficulty. This Grant Program provides financial stabilization support for microenterprises businesses. A microenterprise is defined as a commercial business with five or fewer employees, one which owns the business. The Small Business COVID-19 Relief Program meets the national objective of Low/Mod Limited Clientele (LMC) as the financial assistance will benefit microenterprise owners who are low- to moderate-income. The Small Business COVID-19 Grant Program will assist at least 5 more microenterprises utilizing up to \$50,000 CDBG funds as shown in the table above. The assistance to each microenterprise will not exceed \$10,000 and the terms will be a grant.

### Reprogramming \$457,437 of 2015 and 2016 CDBG Funds

The Town of Arlington is also reprogramming \$457,437 of CDBG funds from the past Program Years (2015 and 2016) as follows:

| <b>Subrecipients</b>           | <b>2020-2021<br/>CDBG Program<br/>Budget</b> | <b>Substantial<br/>Amendment</b> | <b>Final 2020-2021<br/>CDBG Program<br/>Budget</b> | <b>Goal Outcomes</b>                     |
|--------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|--|--|
| Arlington EATS Fit Out Project | \$0  | \$332,437                        | \$332,437  | 2600 New<br>Low/Mod Clients<br>Supported |
| DPW Annual Curb Ramp Project   | \$0  | \$125,000                        | \$125,000  | 45 New Low/Mod<br>Clients Supported      |
| <b>Totals</b>                  | <b>\$0</b>                                   | <b>\$457,437</b>                 | <b>\$457,437</b>                                   |  |

These two projects could not be funded during the regular funding cycle. Arlington EATS had requested \$400,000 of CDBG funds during the regular funding cycle. At the time, the CDBG Subcommittee could not recommend funding earlier this year as the Town was awaiting a decision from HUD regarding the project. That decision has now been received and the CDBG Subcommittee recommended funding this project with \$332,437 of older funds when the Subcommittee met on April 15, 2020. The Arlington EATS Fit Out Project will support approximately 2,600 new clients who earn a low- to moderate-income.

Historically, CDBG funds have been allocated to the DPW's annual curb ramp installation program. Unfortunately, an application was not received for funding for the upcoming program year, but DPW would have requested \$125,000 of CDBG funds. The CDBG Subcommittee recommended funding this work with \$125,000 of older funds when the Subcommittee met on April 15, 2020. The project will result in the upgrade of approximately 45 curb ramps.

#### Review Process

The CARES Act loosened certain procedural requirements by providing a waiver of the standard 30 day comment period. The waiver allows a comment period of no less than 5 days in order to program the funding quickly and efficiently.

Comments can be submitted beginning on August 6, 2020 through August 12, 2020 at 4 PM to Erin Zwirko, Interim Community Development Program Manager, at [ezwirko@town.arlington.ma.us](mailto:ezwirko@town.arlington.ma.us). All comments received and the Town's responses will be included in the substantial amendment that is submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.